

**WHANGAREI**  
**Physiotherapy Services**

445 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei  
Telephone 09 435 2299  
Facsimile 09 435 2222  
Kensington Gym Clinic  
Telephone 09 459 5000

**Matarau Electrical Services**

RD1, Kamo, Whangarei  
Phone 09 433 5533

Andrew Coop  
Registered Electrician  
021 733 883

All Domestic, farm & commercial maintenance  
New house wiring . Light industrial . alterations

**Top service anywhere in town**

**Xtreme Shampoo Shop & Salon**

The Strand Arcade  
Cameron St Mall  
Whangarei  
Ph 438 1933

**where Good Hair Days begin**

**OMAK MEATS**

*The King of Meats*  
Your Meat Specialist

29 Kamo Road, Kamo A/H 09 4335738  
Phone 09 4351403 A/h 435 3002  
4351780 A/h fax 4353012  
Mobile 027 5435140

**ALASTAIR RICKEY DECORATING LTD**

**Bring your home to life...**

450 Matarau Road  
R.D.1 Kamo 0121  
Whangarei  
Ph/Fax: 09 435 5509  
Cell: 021 766 439  
email:rickey9@xtra.co.nz

Interior &  
Exterior  
Painting &  
Decorating



Independent - Trade Qualified  
Trent Sissons  
P 433 5156 M 021 743 163  
www.heatpumppro.co.nz

**new zealand HOME LOANS**  
FINANCIAL FREEDOM for lifestyle choice

Mark Adams  
NEW ZEALAND HOME LOAN WHANGAREI LTD  
26 Commerce Street, Whangarei  
Tel: 430 3527; Fax 430 3529  
Email: marka@nzhomeloans.co.nz  
Web: www.nzhomeloans.co.nz

**Newsletter**  
**Number 01**  
**3 February 2012**



**Website** [www.matarau.school.nz](http://www.matarau.school.nz)

**Phone / Fax** (09) 433 5823 **Email** – admin@matarau.school.nz

Welcome to the 2012 school year. A special welcome to our new families.

**Newsletters (Keeping Informed)**

Newsletters are issued to the eldest child in each family every Friday. Please ensure your child hands the newsletter to you when they arrive home. If your child is absent, newsletters will be held until their next day of attendance. Copies of our newsletter are also available on our website.

**Early Thanks**

...to staff who put in extra hours over the holidays to prepare for the new school year.

...Helen Dorahy and Jim Palmer, for working hard over the holidays preparing school for our return.

...to those parents & grandparents who made our 2011 prize giving so special and to all of those children who were called to the stage.

...to parents who acted early to ensure children were well prepared to start the school year. Nearly all children have their full stationery quota.

**People of the week**

.. Those children who have made particular efforts to make our new students feel welcome.

.. Former students who achieved well at their secondary schools in 2011 - some stunning achievements.

.. Mrs Witte who put in so much work over the holidays ensuring the Room 9 mural was completed - looks great!

Please keep us informed of the achievements of present and past pupils so that we can celebrate these together.

**Congratulations**

.. to the following children who broke school athletics records at the end of last year ..

Name	Event	New Record	Former Record
Grace	Year 4 Discus	14.89m	14.11m (2005)
Natasha	Year 5 High Jump	1.11m	1.10m (2003)
Melissa	Year 6 Long Jump	3.93m	3.89m (2006)
Laura	Discus	18.67m	18.04m (2010)
Laura	Shotput	7.77m	7.31m (2006)
Euan	Discus	28.17m	23.78m (2006)
Monika	Discus	21.7m	19.8m (2007)

**Mobile Ear Clinic**

.. will be outside the Bush Road Medical Centre 8:30-3:30 Wednesday 8 February. No appointments necessary. Pre-schoolers welcome.

## **Term Events**

Please pencil the following dates into your calendar. We will advise of further dates as these come to hand.

14 Feb	Feb meeting of the Board of Trustees
14-17 Feb	Year 5/6 camp at Lonsdale Park
21 Feb	Swimming heats (preparatory to school and zone events)
22 Feb	Tennis Doubles Tournament (pp 29.2)
22 Feb	Keeping Ourselves Safe parent meeting (Library 3:15)
24 Feb	Learner Journey sheets home for parent input
24 Feb	Indicator Reports home
27/28 Feb	Parent/teacher/student conferences
29 Feb	Zone Swimming Sports at Kokopu School
13 March	Keeping Ourselves Safe programme under way (2 weeks)
13 March	Interschool Swimming Competitions (Whangarei Intermediate) pp 20.3
13 March	March meeting of the Board of Trustees
15 March	School Swimming Sports
21 March	Year 7/8 team triathlon (Marsden Cove)
22 March	Year 7/8 HPV and tetanus vaccinations
25 March	Year 7/8 individual triathlon (Onerahi Foreshore)
5 April	Final day term 1

## **Term Dates for 2012**

Term 1 - 2.2.12 to 5.4.12	Term 2 - 23.4.12 to 29.6.12
Term 3 - 16.7.12 to 28.9.12	Term 4 - 15.10.12 to (likely) 18.12.12 (to be confirmed)

## **For new parents, staffing for 2012 is as follows...**

Room 12	Mr Delemare	Year 7 & 8	Deputy Principal Responsible for the Senior School (Rooms 11-12)
Room 11	Miss Williams / Mrs Donaldson	Year 7 & 8	
Room 10	Mrs Gunson	Year 5 & 6	
Room 9	Mr Schuster	Year 5 & 6	
Room 8	Mrs Witte	Year 4	
Room 7	Mrs Burgin	Year 3	Senior Teacher Responsible for the Middle School (Rooms 7 - 10)
Room 6	Miss Bevin	Year 2	
Room 5	<i>no class in this room presently</i>		
Room 4	Mrs Abbott / Mrs Sloper	Year 2	
Room 3	Mrs Williams	Year 1	
Room 2	Mrs Robertson	Year 1	Acting Assistant Principal
Room 1	<i>Commencing mid year numbers permitting</i>		
Mrs Comrie	ESOL / Special Needs		

### **Support staff are as follows:**

Mrs Dorahy	Office Administration
Mrs Crawford	Teacher Aide / PMP
Mrs Neumann	Teacher Aide / Oral language programme
Mrs Nisha	Teacher Aide
Mrs Wynyard	Teacher Aide / PMP
Mrs Sinclair	Teacher Aide / Accounts / PMP
Mrs Sullivan	IT Support
Mrs Cates	Library/ Principal PA / ESOL
Mr Palmer	Grounds / Caretaker

## **Keeping Ourselves Safe Parent Meeting**

The school will shortly be involving children in a number of units related to the topic of "keeping ourself safe". This does involve issues like safe touching but includes a whole lot more. This unit of work will be facilitated, in part, by the Police Education Officer Jasmine Bundle, who (along with key staff) is willing to meet with parents on 22 February at 3.15 in the Library. Please advise Helen if you will be in attendance at this meeting.

### Reading Logs

If your child kept a reading log over the holidays please keep this in a safe place .. these will be requested in a week or two. National Library books issued at the end of last year may be held until further notice. Please keep your children reading every night .. and don't forget to read to them also. (Parents of those children involved in the Summer Reading Programme will shortly be asked to indicate the regularity of holiday reading to assist us with our research).

### Daily Absences

Parents are reminded -

1. to advise the office by 9:00am if their child will be absent from school that day.
2. to follow up with a signed note specifying reason for non-attendance (Necessary in the event that our rolls are audited by the Ministry of Ed).

By 9:30am each day an audit is undertaken of all attendance registers. Unaccounted absences are advised to the office, which then has the responsibility for investigating those absences. **This can be a time consuming process and so parents are asked to help by keeping us fully informed.**

Children who arrive at school after 9:00am bell are asked to report to the office on arrival please.

### School Contributions / Trips and Events Fee

The Board is grateful for payment of school contributions and is committed to using these in ways which add value to your children's learning - in this regard it is a little unique as a donation, as we want you to get something concrete in return. Your contributions help to lower teacher / pupil ratios, enable us to employ additional teacher aides, expand special needs hours, subsidise buses & visiting drama groups & so forth. Contributions may be paid in one instalment at year's commencement (\$90 per child) or \$25 per term. The trips and events fee is a more efficient and convenient alternative to the usual collection of smaller amounts throughout the year. While this can also be paid quarterly, we do prefer full payment at the beginning of the year if this is possible.

**If feeling financially stretched at the moment parents are welcome to contact me to discuss alternative payment arrangements. You will find us accommodating and discreet.**

### Stationery

If your child does not have their stationery please organise this as soon as possible. You are welcome to source your stationery off site but take care to note the quality of items you purchase, also the price difference is sometimes minimal. Stationery can be purchased throughout the year from the school office.

### Sunhats

A reminder that school broad brimmed sunhats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4. Please ensure these are packed at the beginning of each school day. Clothing which covers the shoulders is also advisable with sun block at your discretion.

### School Garden

If able to help out with the school garden this year (maybe an afternoon a week - or fortnight) please give Kevin a call.

### Triadic Conferences (parent / teacher / student interviews)

The above are scheduled for 27 and 28 February - an interview booking sheet will be sent out with next week's newsletter. Parents are encouraged to attend these interviews with their child or to make an alternative appointment if these days do not suit. Conferences are an opportunity to talk about your child specifically, to see how they have settled, to note any concerns, and to set some targets. This is a chance for you and your child (optional for year 1 children) to be heard and to hear some first impressions of how their year is unfolding.

### Special Needs Programme

If your child has been selected for placement in one of Mrs Comrie's special needs programmes please return consent forms as soon as possible. This is a valuable opportunity for a more personalized and intensive learning programme, in an area of need, and parental support with assigned homework tasks is anticipated.

### **Punctuality**

In order to aid in the smooth operation of classes (and in order to teach an important life skill) we request that children are at school at least 10-15 minutes before the morning bell to give them time to settle, connect with their teacher, and prepare for the day ahead. If running unavoidably late please give the school office a call. Many thanks.

### **Pool Keys**

The pool will be available for public use. Hire keys are available from the school office at \$25 per family for the 2012 swimming season. Those who held their key last year in anticipation of using again this year will have received an invoice this week. Please send the money in asap. Many thanks.

### **Bus Times**

Buses times and routes are as at the end of last year. Please assist us by monitoring the behaviour/safety of children waiting at bus pick up points and advising us early of any areas of concern.

Parents are also reminded that motor vehicles are required to reduce their speed to 20km per hour when passing a stationary bus.

(Children who catch the bus at the hall travel on the second (Worsnop Rd) bus in the morning, travel home on the 3:05pm bus at the end of the day.)

Children travelling by bus from Kamo will be picked up at GJ Gardner Homes at 7:45 in the morning, and dropped at the Cleaning Oasis at the end of the day by 4:30 PM. Plenty of room on this bus and so well and truly open to new users. Fee of \$2 per trip to be given to the bus driver.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT BUS DROP OFF TIMES ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON LOADINGS- PARTICULARLY WHEN THERE IS A MAJOR EVENT AT SCHOOL. ON SPORTS DAYS / CAMP WEEKS ETC. PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT TIMES TO VARY QUITE WIDELY.**

**Early Buses** – early notice that buses will run 30 minutes early on 27 and 28 Feb because of parent interviews. Parents who transport their children by car are asked to pick them up at 2.30 PM please on these days.

### **Pick up of Children**

1. Where possible parents are asked to pick their children up from the bottom bus bay or upper carpark (in the former case children are asked to wait by Room 12, heading down when they sight your car). This is a dangerous stretch of road and we request that all parents assist us to minimise risks.

2. If you have made arrangements for somebody else to pick your child up from school, the office must be advised beforehand. Any visitors to the school should report to the office first.

3. Parents of non-bus children are asked to pick their children up by 3:15PM (or later by arrangement with the School Office). Non-bus children remaining at school after 3:25 should be placed in the After School Care Programme.

### **End of Day Buses**

If your child will not be on their customary bus at the end of the day please –

- ♦ Either 1. Advise the office before 2:45pm (in which case a note is put on the bus clip)
- ♦ Or 2. Drop by the office to let us know

This saves time searching for children and enables us to get buses underway on time.

If you wish your child to travel on an alternative bus (i.e. not their regular bus) the prior consent of the office must be obtained. Consent will depend on bus loadings.

### **After School Care**

All users of this programme are asked to register please. This can be done on line by visiting [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz) or alternatively by checking in with the programme manager here at school before the start of ASC. The standard of this programme has been significantly upgraded and large subsidies are available to most users. We hope parents will make full use of this programme to help ensure it is sustainable. Brochures are available from the school office.

### **Term Headlice Inspection**

We are keen to have a school wide headlice inspection as soon as possible to avoid the stress which accompanies any outbreak. We are desperate for offers of help and so .. if you are able to help with inspections please phone Donna Cates here at school. – Without offers of help we will not be able to continue this service.

### **Request from our Librarian**

Please check bookshelves, behind dressers, under beds etc. and return any books to school as soon as possible.

### **Swimming Trials**

If able to assist with the timing of swimmers on 21 February please give Kevin a call. These trials help ensure correct selection of swimmers for zone & interschool events & assist us to place children in heats for our school swimming sports. We would love your help with this.

*Parents of year 3 children who would like their children to participate in the competitive races at our school swimming sports (as opposed to the usual junior water confidence activities) are asked to advise their child's teacher early next week - we will then include these children in the time trials.*

### **Parent Helpers**

We well know the difference that can be made through the involvement of parent helpers. If you can commit some regular time to a classroom (or some other area of the school) please return the attached parent helpers form by 9 February (or later by arrangement). Please give me a call if you wish to further discuss your potential involvement.

### **Medical Forms/Address/Contact Details**

On enrolment parents provide important details on contacts / custody issues / medical conditions / medications etc. Please continue throughout the year to keep us informed so that we can properly discharge our duty of care to your child(ren).

Some medications should be held at, and administered from, the school office. Please contact us if unsure.

**Where we currently hold medication for your child please call by the office within the next 2 weeks to check expiry dates and arrange replacement where necessary.**

### **Swimming**

Children are required to have their swimming gear at school each day. Thank you.

### **Creating optimal conditions for learning (just a reminder)**

An increasing body of educational research is suggesting that some of the biggest improvements in learning can result from simple things like ..

.. **drinking plenty of water.**

Parents are asked to ensure children bring a water bottle to school each day. A reminder that water is preferable to sugar based drinks. We will encourage them to have their water bottle on their desks at all times during the day (a good idea when you consider the brain is 90% water).

... **a good nights sleep.** A target bedtime of 8:00 PM is suggested for all children.

.. **a suitable breakfast and healthy lunch.** With food as close as possible to its natural form.

.. don't forget to **show an interest** in what your child is doing at school. Share mealtimes with them if possible and don't let them overdo the homework - we all need time to play.

### **Scholastic Book Orders** .. watch this space!

### **Guitar Lessons**

There are a number of vacancies in this popular after school programme (Wednesday & Thursday in the Old School Room - by the upper car park). Cost \$20 per lesson. Vangie has a spare guitar for kids trying out. If interested please phone Vangie on 434 7573 or 021 1883251, or email killalea@ihug.co.nz

### **Friday Lunches**

.. start within the next couple of weeks. Parents will receive an order form for completion and return to school. Weekly orders must be in no later than Wednesday of the week in question. Please give Helen a call if you can spend 10 minutes in the morning and/or 15 minutes around mid-day to help with heating and distribution of items. Thank you.

### **Monday Lunches**

If able to help with Monday lunches (around 45 minutes) from 12:00 on Mondays please give Helen a call. Any assistance would be very much appreciated.

## Communications

Over the course of the year you may have questions or perhaps even concerns. It is impossible for us to please everyone all of the time, but we have a strong desire to be fair and will accommodate you where we can. In the first instance matters should be addressed to your child's teacher, but I am always available down the track or for issues of a general nature. We find that trust, communication and a positive attitude ensures problems seldom develop. We know we will make mistakes from time to time and so please be patient and understanding when this happens.

Come in early with any problems .. although remember that a problem of monumental proportions in the mind of a child one week may have entirely disappeared from their radar screen the following week. Equally, parental concerns can sometimes disappear (or change) with a second or third or fourth piece of relevant information.

## Homework

.. information to follow within next week or two.

## Questions

We hope the newsletter keeps you informed of major issues throughout the year. Nevertheless you will have questions from time to time. Please feel free to phone the office at any time or to approach staff. We are more than happy to answer any questions and so ask...ask...ask. Remember the newsletter can be accessed same day on our school website.

## Finally

Thanks for entrusting us with your children's education for another year. Plenty to get excited about this year... a continuing focus on creative writing, reading fiction, library promotion, reading logs, making and sustaining friendships, goal setting and more . More to follow. Welcome on board. Great to be back.

Regards  
Kevin Trewhella  
PRINCIPAL

Our Sponsors support your  
children, please support them

### **WHANGAREI Physiotherapy Services**

445 Kamo Road, Kamo, Whangarei  
Telephone 09 435 2299  
Facsimile 09 435 2222  
Kensington Gym Clinic  
Telephone 09 459 5000

## A Message from our SKIDS Team

*Our SKIDS 'Safe Kids in Daily Supervision' would be very pleased to answer any questions you may have in regards to the SKIDS after school program, which is up and running each day. We can now offer fun filled after school supervision until 6pm and remember you could qualify for a subsidy too!*

*Also, please let it be known to them if you would appreciate an Easter Holiday Program being available for your child. If there are enough numbers this could be something to look forward to. To contact Abby or Hannah text or call 0278461724 or pop into the school hall at the end of the school day. Alternatively you will find information and enrolment forms online at [www.skids.co.nz](http://www.skids.co.nz)*

## Community Notices

For Rent - small, furnished accommodation available, on the Matarau School bus route. Please contact Jan 433 5000 or 0273 19 0273.

Carpooling - Anyone interested in carpooling from Apotu end of Crane Rd to Matarau School pls contact Shona 435 1555

### PARENTS GRANDPARENTS CARE GIVERS CHECK IT OUT!!!

A fantastic community facility for FUN and LEARNING where you can spend quality time with your child is right at your doorstep.

#### **RUATANGATA PLAYCENTRE**

Heaps of resources you can use as you please, play along with your child as they learn, socialise with other parents, create friendships that can continue on to kindy and school.

Paint, messy play (that's not on your carpet), great covered sandpit, outdoor play equipment, art equipment, carpentry, clay, a library, dress up's, family play area, swings, water play, baby friendly environment.

Bring your babies, toddlers, preschoolers (0-5)

Bring your friend and their children or Mum's bring your coffee group.

First 3 visit's **FREE**, enrol in the next 3 weeks and get your first term **free!!**

Currently open Tuesday's 9.30 am – 12.30pm, hoping to open Friday's with enough interest, drop in for a look, or call Lisa 4335558 for more info!